

The unusually severe weather that prevailed at the time was probably the cause of its occurrence in the valley.

DENDROCITTA SINENSIS (Latham). [541.]

Very common, often in large flocks among the trees or feeding on the ground. They have a variety of notes, all more or less musical.

The noise made by their wings in flight is very loud and peculiar, sounding like *wuff, wuff, wuff*.

XLV.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

No. XLVI. (June 30th, 1897.)

THE forty-fifth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 16th of June, 1897.

*Chairman*: DR. F. PENROSE.

*Members present*:—E. BIDWELL, W. F. BROCKHOLES, DR. F. D. DREWITT, DR. H. O. FORBES, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, E. HARTERT, COL. P. W. L'ESTRANGE, G. E. LODGE, A. H. MACPHERSON, E. NEALE, R. NESHAM, H. NOBLE, C. E. PEARSON, HON. L. W. ROTHSCHILD, HON. N. C. ROTHSCHILD, H. F. WITHERBY, J. YOUNG.

*Visitors*: Captain BACON, W. W. FOWLER, DR. E. GWYNN, Prof. F. WERNER, C. A. WITCHELL.

THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD exhibited a specimen of Cory's Bittern (*Ardetta neoxena*, Cory), from Canada. It was believed to be the only specimen in any museum in England. Some ornithologists had regarded this bird as a melanism of *Ardetta exilis*, but it was now generally admitted to be a distinct species. (See A. O. U. Check-List, 1895, p. 70.)

MR. ROTHSCHILD exhibited a pair of *Eclectus cornelia*, Bonap. This fine Parrot had hitherto been known only from females which had died in captivity; but recently

Mr. W. Doherty and Mr. A. H. Everett had collected a series, including examples of both sexes, in the interior of the island of Sumba.

Mr. ROTHSCHILD also showed skins of *Psitteuteles weberi*, Büttik., and *P. euteles*. Numbers of the latter species had been collected by Dr. A. R. Wallace both in Timor and Flores, while the former had been first obtained in Flores by Prof. Weber, and more recently by Mr. Everett. Prof. Mivart, in his 'Monograph of the Loriidæ,' had united the two species, because both occurred in Flores. It seemed remarkable that both species should inhabit the same island, and it was suggested that possibly Dr. Wallace's specimens of *P. euteles* bore an erroneous locality; but, in either case, the two species were perfectly distinct, differing much in colour and size.

Mr. ROTHSCHILD made further remarks on Prof. Steere's type of *Paradisea minor*, var. *albescens*, Musschenbr. It was shown to be a "made up" specimen; part being a male of the typical *P. minor*, showing the white abdomen characteristic of the immature bird, to which had been added the long side plumes of a male of *P. minor jobiensis*, Rothschild.

Mr. ROTHSCHILD likewise informed the Meeting that he had purchased the collection of the late Christian Ludwig Brehm. This once-celebrated collection of one of the fathers of German ornithology had unfortunately suffered from neglect, being kept in a small country house, but it still contained nearly all the types of the many "species" and "subspecies" made by C. L. Brehm. It had been customary among British and Continental authors to place Brehm's numerous names as synonyms of our well-known European species; but, although this might be right in the majority of cases, recent investigations had shown that some of Brehm's forms, such as *Nucifraga*, *Parus*, *Certhia*, *Galerida*, and others, deserved subspecific and even specific rank.